

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of July 15, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because on page 22, line 22, "dived" should be -divided--.

Accordingly, the present amendment makes this correction. Additionally, the specification has been amended to change "immunoaffinity" to -affinity--, which term it is believed better defines the invention.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner alleges that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the specification was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have been amended to limit the plasminogen to human plasminogen, support for which is provided in the specification as filed at page 21, Example 7.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite prevention of lung metastasis and lung tumor growth.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have been amended to describe situations in which the fragment binds to heparin and situations in which the fragment does not bind to heparin. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 9, liens 3-8 and page 21, lines 9-14, as well as at Figure 6.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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